

THE JEWISH GAILY

FORWARD



FEBRUARY 1982

שער זהב

SHEVAT/ADAR 5742

A HOME OF OUR OWN!

To date our campaign to have A Home of our Own has raised pledges and funds of \$196,000—only four thousand dollars short of a round number. A very nice round number. The negotiating process continues, and we all hope that January will see a breakthrough. Untangling the bureaucracy is a slow process all right, and the details surrounding Bush Street would "cross a Rabbi's eyes" (to quote the words of Tevye, another impatient soul).

The plans for the outreach campaign for funds and support from outside the Congregation are progressing, and yet we will not actually begin the campaign until we reach a certainty point in our Bush St. negotiations with the City.

Part of the planning process has been the creation of an active Public Relations Committee, and judging from the January 11th first meeting of the committee this group will ACTIVE! Any time a dozen people are ready to commit their time and energy to a new committee just getting off the ground, and they themselves are, for the most part, new to the Congregation—I'd call that ACTIVE and BEAUTIFUL. It was an inspiring meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. (a full moon night, no less!) For more infomration, call me at 626-1694 (days).

Finally, I want to express the appreciation of everyone who has worked on the building drive's internal campaign for the work and energy that Paul Cohen has contributed. As we enter a new phase, outreaching beyond our membership, we owe it to ourselves a collective pat on the back for the vast sum of money that we have raised in these very hard times. And another individual pat to everyone who has contributed time, energy and money to get us "A Home of Our Own."

-Mark Feldman

Something's New!

As you undoubtedly have already noticed, the *Forward* has a new and more professional look. Our graphic approach, now enhanced by computerized phototypesetting, promises to develop into something not just "new," but tter, too.

When is a Tree Not a Tree?

The news release from the Jewish Community Relations Council seemed OK: Tu b'Shevat, the New Year for Trees, would be celebrated in Bay Area communities on Sunday, February 7. Jewish National Fund trees will be planted...

Aye, there's the rub!

The Jewish National Fund, whose blue and white pushkes hold childhood memories for so many of us, is the same Jewish National Fund that so many of us no longer send contributions to. It's not that Israel no longer needs trees. Rather, an ongoing controversy surrounds trees we have already tried to plant.

In 1977–78, a number of lesbian and gay synagogues and Jewish organizations throughout the world collected money from their members and friends to plant a forest in Israel. In 1979, some \$9,000 found its way into JNF coffers, and an appropriate sign was to be erected at "our" forest. But the JNF in Israel balked at the idea of a sign that included the words "lesbian" and "gay," even though the JNF in New York had no problem about the wording.

JNF offered to return the money to the groups, which refused it because the funds had come from individuals, and polling all contributors would be an impossible task.

Another alternative, that separate plaques would name each group, was similarly turned down, again because the funds were from individuals, not organizations.

It is not clear, at this writing, whether or not the funds have been used to plant trees.

The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, formed in 1980, agreed to take on the task of coordinating efforts to resolve the issue, but recently a spokesperson was able to report only an ongoing stalemate.

So the local JNF office should not be surprised when those of us who wonder what happened to the trees that were to be planted in memory of our loved ones and in honor of many special persons and occasions no longer choose this method of expressing our support for Israel. We find other avenues—and there are many.

While "our" trees may not yet be trees, we know that we can rely on the World Congress to pursue the matter, and we look forward to a full report at the next International Conference, scheduled for the 4th of July weekend in Los Angeles.

President's Column

The resurgence of the fundamentalist Christian churches notwithstanding, attendance is down in most of America's houses of worship. How to understand the continuing high attendance at our own services is a wonderful dilemma that most of my peers would dearly enjoy pondering.

Over 200 people attended the Chanukah services and latke party on December 25th. Many were not members and were at services for the first time. Our increasing applications for membership indicate that these individuals, both men and women, are returning to our community and requesting to join us. It is important to be that our success be measured not only by our growing budget or membership rolls, but rather by the impact we have on each others lives and the contributions we make to the lesbian/gay and Jewish communities.

I believe that we come together in such numbers and greet each other with such warmth that newcomers understand we are happy to be part of a synagogue whose members are truly caring of each other.

Your willingness to communicate both your times of joy and pain, happiness and sorrow enable us to respond as a caring and concerned community. Each of us, and I clearly include myself, must remember that by sharing we enable others to feel and care and be proud of their identity. Please call the Rabbi and share with him; offer to celebrate or commemorate an occasion by finding out how to sponsor an oneg or join a committee and get to know other members and how the synagogue works. By each of our examples, we will be truly creating a community of concerned Jews which spans the entire Bay Area.

—Paul J. Cohen

Mazel Tov!



...to Shelley Spiro and Gabrielle Kassner, on the occasion of their eighth anniversary Reaffirmation Ceremony.
...to David Gellman and to Fred Keeperman, both of whom recently passed the California Bar Examination.
...To Ida Kuluk, who gave birth to a son, Evan Isaac Kuluk, on December 23.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is the newsletter, published 12 times annually, of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given; credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Larry Chandler, Howard (Chad) Cohen, Catherin G. Nelson (chair), Charles Norton and Rodger Pitcairn.

Good News!

About a year ago, Leila Raim stood up after services and announced that we had reached the 100-members mark. This news was greeted by a great round of applause, che and all around good feelings. It was a giant step for Congregation.

We've taken one more giant step. In the first week of January, 1982, we welcomed our 200th member! *Mazel tov* to all of us!

If that were the only good news we had to report, dayenu! But there is more.

Last year we established a "fair share" membership dues-giving guide. Most of our members are helping us achieve the goals set forth in that guide. Dues pledges are significantly higher this year than last, per member, despite the economy. Please keep up the good work!

And, more than 90% of our members have pledged nearly \$200,000 to help us acquire A Home of Our Own!

And, nearly a fourth of our members are actively involved in the committees of the Congregation.

And, without for a moment forgetting the concerns which brought us together in the first place, we have expanded our horizons to reach out to lonely, isolated Jewish women and men in nursing homes and the Tenderloin, and to Jews in danger in Ethiopia.

Have were completed all our tasks? Of course not. We all know many things that need doing.

But neither, friends and neighbors, have we left those tasks unbegun.



Va'ad Report

January's Va'ad meeting was called to order by Paul Cohen with a review of the highlights of the Congregation's growth during the past six months. Paul noted especially the wonderful work of the Membership, Ritual and Oneg committees during this time, as well as the success of our fundraising efforts with Kugel and Raffle ticket sales. With membership now over the 200 mark and the budget doubled over this time last year, the growth of Sha'ar Zahav has been steady and solid.

Passover plans were reviewed by Oneg chair David Ben-Jacob, who reported that the second seder will again be held at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn on Van Ness. Both a standard dinner ("chumetz-free" for Passover) and a kosher dinner will be available.

Outreach plans to the Russian River area were discussed by Shelley Fernandez. Services will be offered in mid-March at Walt Leiss' home on the river, with advertising in the local media to publicize this event. Plans for outreach to the Sacramento and San Jose areas are in development.

Difficult economic trends in the entertainment busing have forced the redesign of the Ruth Hastings & Compabenefit, which was originally planned for February at the Warfield Theatre. The Ways & Means Committee will be working with the Building Campaign Cabinet to discuss alternative ideas for a Ruth Hastings & Company event.

From Where I Stand

As the new secular year has gotten underway, we have found ourselves facing the same issues that depressed so many of us last year. I wonder, though, how many of us edecided to find creative or different solutions to those problems so that this calendar year stands out from past years because of the positive impact it has on our lives.

In Israel and throughout the traditional Jewish world, the holiday of Tu B'Shevat marks the return of spring and the rebirth of life. As a seasonal holiday, it signals a time of reawakening, of that cosmic stretch and yawn after the gray and bleak days of winter. While the holiday is called the New Year for Trees, it falls in the second month of the secular calendar, and is not a new year for anything or anyone else. But the connection with the trees has some very special significance for us. We are reminded of our connection with the earth. We are not only intellectually related to the planet and its inhabitants; we are physically related to it as well, and our responsibility to the earth is to safeguard it for all things, whether human or not, whether living or not. In one context our awareness of the trees which cover the landscape should remind us that nuclear devices are the best permanent defoliants. If we wish to retain a planet on which to live, then the cessation of the use and proliferation of nuclear arms must begin immediately.

Intimately interwoven with this concept is that of renewal of relationships. As we watch trees bloom and flower, mindful of their delicacy and fragility, we remember how delicate and fragile are our relationships with one another. We, as humans, may be more fortunate than trees, in that relationships can bloom throughout the year. But at the same time, our relationships to one another can wither just as quickly.

n our congregational life, we are like a growing forest of young trees. There is rich soil, plenty of light, and excellent growing conditions. We find that we are connected to one another by interconnecting root systems, proximity and other factors of similarity. Our goal is to be a forest of comfort and love, of inspiration and nurture. We are, for those whose journey has brought them to us, trees of life on the edge of a barren wilderness. Bring a friend to Sha'ar Zahav. Plant another tree in our forest.

-Rabbi Allen B. Bennett

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A Night in Old Milwaukee

Makes you think of beer? Wrong—how about *Bowling!?* So, join us on Saturday, March 20 at 7 p.m. for A Night in Old Milwaukee at the Japantown Bowl, Post and Webster Streets, San Francisco.

Prizes will be presented to winners of our various categories, including Smoothest Swing, Gutter Roller, Lowest Scorer and more.

The approximate cost is \$6 (@\$1.60 per game, shoe rental of 75¢ etc.). Your \$3 deposit will be applied to the cost of the games. Reservations *must* be received by March 17.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav P.O. Box 5640 San Francisco, CA 94101

Enclosed is my check for \$\$3 each for A Night in Old N		reservations @
Name		
Address		
City/Zip	_ Phone	
Guest(s) Name(s)		
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A Travelling Jewish Theater

The Social Program Committee announces another special theatrical event! The synagogue has acquired 50 tickets (half of the house) for A Travelling Jewish Theater performing *Coming From a Great Distance*, on Sunday, Febryary 28 at 2:30 p.m. at The Intersection Theater (756 Union Street, S.F., between Mason & Powell).

Coming From a Great Distance is a 1½-hour piece of dramatic history telling of the way of the Baal Shem Tov—tales of deeply Jewish and profoundly human spirit.

Tickets are available to Sha'ar Zahav members for \$6 and to non-members for the regular price of \$8. While tickets will be available at future Onegs following services, you can assure yourself of tickets by mailing the following coupon and check to the synagogue office, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco 94101.

gation Sha'ar Zahav for member non-member tickets at \$8 each Please mail my tickets to:	
Name	
Address	
CityState	Zip
Phone	

Enclosed is a check for _____ made payable to Congre-

Opportunities

The Second National March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights takes place on May 2, 1982. Contact the National Organization of Lesbians and Gays at 1469 Church Street, Washington, D.C. 20005, for details.

Formation of a Holocaust Survivors Committee under the auspices of the Jewish Community Relations Council has been announced by William Lowenberg, chair of the group. At their first meeting in December, more than 40 persons in attendance committed themselves to active participation in the funding of the Holocaust Memorial which will be built at the Legion of Honor. For more information, contact the JCRC at 391-4655.

The Lambda Resource Center for the Blind is a non-profit organization of blind and sighted volunteers who produce recordings of books for distribution to blind gay men and lesbians, as well as a quarterly magazine on the lesbian and gay experience for interested blind people. LRC for the Blind can be contacted at 3225 North Sheffield, Chicago IL 60651.

A Folkdance Party for women, on Sunday, February 21 at the Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut in Berkeley, will benefit the upcoming Jewish Feminist Conference. The sliding scale admission is \$3-\$5. Bagels, a kissing booth (!) and childcare are included in the plans. For more information, call 655-6394.

THe Magnes Museum presents a special program in conjunction with the exhibition *Jews of Greece* on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. The songs and folk poetry of the Jewish Community of Ioannina, Greece will be presented and discussed by their translator, Professor Apostolos Athanasakis of the University of California at Santa Bar-

bara. Admission is \$2 for Museum members and \$3 for non-members. The exhibit continues through March 28. For more information, call the Museum at 849-2710.

The Religious Committee for the Equal Rights Amendment (RCERA) is calling for support. RCERA is an interfaith coalition of 40 Jewish, Catholic and Protestant groups shoe commitment to the ERA stems from "deeply held religious beliefs in justice and freedom for all persons." For more information, contact the RCERA at 475 Riverside Drive, Room 830A, New York, NY 10025.

The Jewish Genealogical Society next meets on Tuesday, February 9 at California Federal Savings on Noriega Street in San Francisco. If you are interested in discovering your "Jewish Roots," you are welcome to attend. Contact Pete Iannen at 861-4045 for further details.

A one-day educational program on nuclear arms control topics will take place on Sunday, February 28 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Berkeley Hillel, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. The program is directed specifically to the Jewish Community and is co-sponsored by Berkeley Hillel, the Berkeley campus local of Bay Area New Jewish Agenda, and the Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center. Entitled Choose Life: Jews and Nuclear Weapons, the program will feature Rabbi Leonard Beerman, co-chair of the Interfaith Council to Reverse the Arms Race, as keynote speaker. Panels include ethical issues of nuclear weapons as seen from the Jewish tradition, nuclear proliferation and Soviet nuclear policy. Admission is \$3-\$5 and limited childe by reservation, is available. For further information, d tact Frank Olken, New Jewish Agenda, 654-6996 or Sue Fink or Rabbi Martin Ballonoff, Berkeley Hillel, 845-7793.

Ethiopian Jewry—Priority for Social Action Committee

Ethiopian Jewry is in danger of extinction. There are specific projects in which we can become involved to directly better the lives of these beleaguered people—our people. Plan to attend the Social Action Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9. Please call the synagogue office, 621-2871, for the meeting location.

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Aid Marin Flood Victims

A call has gone out from the United Jewish Community Centers of the Bay Area for donations of linens and kitchen items to assist victims of the recent storms and flooding. Blankets, sheets, towels, pillows, plates, flatware, pots and pans—any times that you may be able to contribute—should be brought to the Jewish Community Center Monday through Friday (days), or bring them with you on Friday evening.

East Bay Lunch Group

The ever-popular monthly East Bay lunch and "dishing" extravaganza will start up again on Thursday, February 25 at 11:45 a.m. at the Bench & Bar, 120 Eleventh Street, Oakland.

The last Thursday of each month will be the regular day for the East Bay Lunch. At each lunch, we will decide on the location of the next month's lunch.

All Sha'ar Zahav members and friends who live, work or just choose to visit in the East Bay are invited to join the informal, fun lunches. Contact Ron Lezell, 621-3930 evenings, for further information.

FEBRUARY

שבט אדר

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Va'ad Meeting 621-2871	Tu bi-Shevat	Social 9 Action Committee 621-2871	Newsletter 10 Deadline 621-0628	11	12	13
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14	15	16	Newsletter Committee 621-0628	18	19	Shabbat Shekalim
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21	22	Rosh Ḥodesh Adar	24 Rosh Ḥodesh Adar מְשֶׁנִכְנָט אֲדָר	25	26	27
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Friday, February 5 12 Shevat

Shabbat Shirah
Torah Be-Shallah Exodus 13:17-17:16
Haftorah Judges 4:4-5:31
Steven Fritsch Rudser, Services

Friday, February 12 19 Shevat Torah Yitvo Exodus 18:1-20:23 Haftorah Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5 Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, Services Catherine G. Nelson, Sermon Daniel Chesir and Garry Koenigsberg, Torah Reading Friday, February 19 27 Shevat Torah Mishpatim Exodus 21:1-24:18 Special Reading Exodus 30:11-16 Haftorah II Kings 12:1-17 Daniel Chesir, Services

Friday, February 26 3 Adar

Torah Torumah Exodus 25:1-27:19 Haftorah I Kings 5:26-6:13 Rabbi Allen B. Bennett and Steven Fritsch Rudser, Services

Everyone is welcome to join us for Shabbat services each Friday at 8:15 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street (at Presidio), San Francisco.

Beyond Schmitz

When California State Senator John G. Schmitz referred to pro-choice opponents of his "human life amendment" as "hard, Jewish and (arguably) female..." and as "bull-dykes," he managed to offend lots of people. Enough so that he has been removed from a number of important legislative committees.

But Schmitz is not alone. There are others like him, who are committed to denying basic human rights to women. All of them *must* be stopped. And there are many ways, within many organizations, to work for the interests of freedom and justice.

One of the best is the Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women, a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring women's health rights: reproductive, environmental, occupational and perinatal. Like the pro-choice majority, CMRW believes that the most basic right of every woman is the control of her own body. To continue, the Coalition needs *everyone's* help. For information, contact the CMRW at 621-8030 or write to the organization at 1638B Haight Street, San Francisco 94117.

Raffle Winners

The Congregation's Chanukah Art Raffle raised over \$2,000 and provided a very special high note for the party which followed services on Friday night, December 25th.

Delighted winners were:

First Prize Signed Steuben glass vase:

George Lucas

Second Prize Two signed Dali lithographs:

Eric Lindner

Third Prize Navajo Rug:

Eleanor Burchell

Our thanks, again, to the generous contributors of the raffle prizes, and to all those who worked so diligently to assure the financial success of the raffle.

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Letters

Dear Paul,

I am aware that nothing can be done about this matter, but I wish to express dissatisfaction over the appearance of Tom Lantos at Sha'ar Zahav. Rep. Lantos voted for a Congressional resolution which overturned a reform ordinance in Washington, D.C. that would have eliminated criminal status given to sexual acts by consenting adults of the same gender.

While I appreciate the efforts of Tom Lantos on behalf of Raoul Wallenberg and the Falashas, I am dismayed and appalled at his support of this attack upon the rights of our sisters and brothers in Washington, D.C.

Clearly, those whom we invite to address our congregation in the future should have a concern for everyone's human rights.

> Sincerely, S.R.S

(Editor's note: The writer is, of course, not alone in these concerns; the Va'ad's discussion on inviting Rep. Lantos and Ms. Lantos addressed the contradiction SRS expresses so well. With the lives of thousands of our sisters and brothers at stake, we wanted information from the best sources available. The Lantoses are among these sources, but their schedule prevented them from returning to California in time. Human rights activist Miriam Levy's presentawas excellent, and was followed by the announcement CSZ's Social Action Committee has made this issue its priority. See the meeting announcement elsewhere in this Forward.

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Politics and Abortion

Cults Target Senior Citizens



The Vote To Annex Golan



Golan Takeover Past Due, Israel U.N. Envoy Says

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Now that Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, each member of the synagogue is entitled to a free subscription to REFORM JUDAISM, an exceptionally interesting and informative newspaper published five times a year with news and features about Jewish issues from a progressive viewpoint.

Members of the Congregation are also being offered a free three-month trial subscription to the Jewish Bulletin, San Francisco's weekly newspaper with national, international and local news of interest to the Jewish community. Rabbi Bennett, incidentally, is now a member of the Bulletin's Board of Directors.

To receive REFORM JUDAISM and the Jewish Bulletin, check the boxes and return this form no later than March 5, 1981, to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101, attention: RJ.

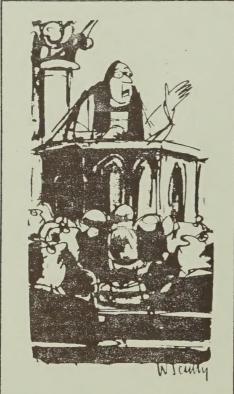
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February Birthdays

- 2 Debbie Silverman
- 3 David Gass
- 6 Teddi Levi
- 7 Ida Kuluk
- 14 Irene Ogus
- 14 Ron Wolberg
- 23 Rodger Pitcairn
- 23 Hal Heller
- 25 Earl Diskin
- 25 David Greenstone
- 25 Micah Sabraw
- 26 Ben Marcus
- 27 Leila Raim
- 28 Bruce Katz

February Yahrzeits

- 4 Henrietta Glassberg, grandmother of David Glassberg
- 7 Lillette Katz, mother of Shelley Abts Fernandez
- 7 Miriam Rosen, mother of David Rosen
- 11 (18 Shevat) Shlomo Ben Haim Bercu, father of Dubi Barcan
- 17 Paula Happ, mother of Larry Happ
- 17 Abraham Spiro, grandfather of Shelley Spiro
- 18 Dora Esther Rifkin, mother of Hy Rifkin
- 23 Asher Liberman, father of Shirley Liberman



o "If, of course, your life-style is going to be seriously affected, disregard everything I've said."

OPUNCH

Donations

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- A. Bennett, in memory of Sam Farber, father of Lawrence Farber
- R. Brateman, in memory of Sylvia Brateman
- Rabbi Richard Agler, in honor of Paul Cohen
- D. Langholtz, for his father's third yahrzeit and in memory of Daniel Fritsch

Condolences

The Congregation expresses its condolences to Laurie Radovsky, on the occasion of the death of her uncle, Seymour Neuman.





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